

THE MOUNT

Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles ♣ *Fall/Winter 2013*



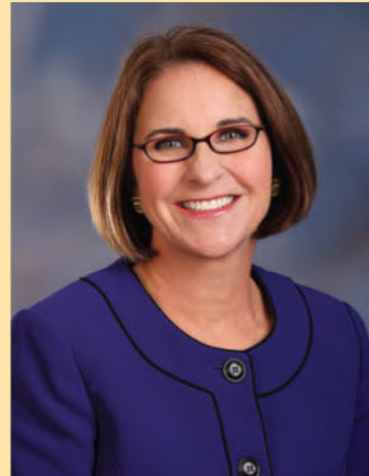
White House Challenge

*Alejandra Ceja '96 leads
President Obama's
education initiative*

from the president

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to report that on April 30, 2013, the Board of Trustees of Mount St. Mary's College unanimously approved the 2013–2018 Strategic Plan. Our theme for the next five years is Innovation for Excellence: Transforming Lives. A copy of the Strategic Plan and details on our three areas of focus can be found on our website at www.msmc.la.edu/strategicplan. It can also be downloaded through our app for iPads, iPhones and iPods (search "MSMC" on iTunes).



The plan was developed through an inclusive and collaborative process involving the full Mount St. Mary's College community, and has as its foundation our Five Pillars of Distinction: Innovative Teaching and Learning; Women; Global Awareness and Understanding; Community; and the Spirit of the Founders. While all of the pillars are important expressions of our College mission, the spirit and the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet are truly the foundation and the heart of the College.

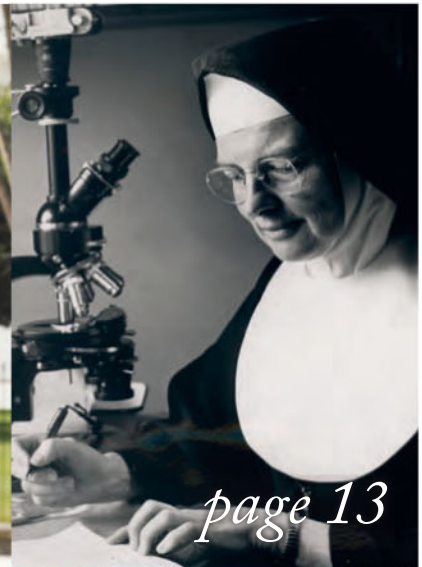
In this issue, we explore our CSJ heritage, and the ways in which it is expressed, from our Le Puy Founders' scholarship recipients to serving our dear neighbor. We celebrate some of the many sisters who are involved with the College as faculty, staff, trustees and volunteers.

It is an exciting time at Mount St. Mary's College as we journey together toward our shared goal of transforming the lives of our students. I look forward to sharing more of this vision with you in the coming academic year.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann McElaney-Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Ann McElaney-Johnson
President



Adding Seats at the Table

Alum appointed as director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.

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The CSJ Heritage

Mount St. Mary's College continues the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

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Sisters Among Us

They are professors, staff, trustees and volunteers. The CSJ Sisters help us keep the Spirit of the Founders alive on our campuses.

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ON THE COVER:

Alejandra Ceja '96 visits the Chalon Campus.

Photo by Watchara Phomicinda

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Photo: Glenn Marzano

Take the stage

"As we prepare to leave our undergraduate years behind, we are sitting here with mixed emotions of both excitement and nostalgia," Stephanie Morales '13 said in her Baccalaureate Class Tribute during Commencement on May 6. "Our education here has instilled in us something far greater than knowledge of the mind, but of the heart and soul, too. If we allow our spirit and compassion to drive our lives, then we won't lose sight of what is really important to us."

The nursing major was one of more than 470 graduates who walked across the stage of the Gibson Amphitheatre in Universal City, Calif., the last graduating class to hold its ceremony at the venue. The landmark Los Angeles concert hall will be demolished to make room for a new park ride at Universal Studios Hollywood. The location of the College's 2014 Commencement will be announced soon. ♣

MISSION STATEMENT

Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles offers a dynamic learning experience in the liberal arts and sciences to a diverse student body. As a Catholic college primarily for women, we are dedicated to providing a superior education enhanced by an emphasis on building leadership skills and fostering a spirit to serve others. Our measure of success is graduates who are committed to using their knowledge and skills to better themselves, their environments and the world.

Mount St. Mary's College is a diverse community committed to providing an environment that is free from discrimination on the basis of any characteristic protected by federal, state or local law, ordinance or regulation.

THE MOUNT

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Photos: Glenn Marzano

Clockwise, from left, KCRW talk show host Madeleine Brand emcees the event celebrating the release of the 2013 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California™ on March 21 at Mount St. Mary's College's Doheny Campus. Diane White-Clayton, founder of The Sacred Praise Chorale, and her band get the crowd on its feet with a rousing performance. Shani Habibi, MSMC assistant professor and one of the Report's authors, presents some of the data. Panelists Elise Buik, CEO of United Way of Greater Los Angeles, Gisselle Acevedo, former president of Para Los Niños, and Kay Buck, CEO of CAST (Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking), discuss some of the findings in the Report.

Continuing the Conversation: College releases 2013 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California™ with new data on gender gaps and representation

Mount St. Mary's College released its 2013 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California™ this spring, and its findings are still being shared and discussed throughout the state. The Report is the only one of its kind, compiling data on a dozen key issues vital to the well-being of California's 18.9 million women and girls.

"We publish this Report because if we truly want to inspire our own students to affect change, we must lead by example," says Ann McElaney-Johnson, president of Mount St. Mary's. "As a college for women of the 21st century, we have an inherent interest in the forces that shape women's lives."

This year's topics include demographics, education, employment, poverty, media, technology, leadership, physical health, mental health, violence, incarceration, and

women in the military. At the Report's release, speakers and panelists — including Geena Davis, Academy Award-winner and founder of the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media; Betsy Berkhemer-Credaire, radio co-host on KFVB; Maria Ott '70, '78 MA, executive in residence at USC School of Education and Mount trustee; Anna Marie Valerio, president of Executive Leadership Strategies — spoke to an overflow crowd of more than 850 people.

To read the Report in full, and to view photos, video and event recaps from the public release, visit statusofwomen.msmc.la.edu. Also, all are invited to continue the conversation online and "like" the report's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/MSMCstatusofwomen.

The 2014 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California™ will be released on March 27, 2014.

from the faculty

Sister Therese Fassnacht, BVM, presented "Contrafactum and Alternatim Praxis in Two Eighteenth Century Requiem Settings by Manuel De Sumaya" at the First International Symposium on Latin American Music at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., in February.

Humanities faculty member **Michael R. Heim** contributed a chapter titled "The Paradox of Virtuality" to "The Oxford Handbook of Virtuality," Oxford Press, scheduled to be published in February 2014.

DPT chair and professor **Debbie Lowe** and DPT instructor **Don Gabard** received notification that their manuscript "Physical Therapy Students' Experiences with Ethical and Legal Violations during Clinical Rotations: Reporting and Barriers to Reporting" has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Physical Therapy Education. The article will appear in the Fall 2014 issue.

Victoria McCargar, college archivist, presented "Lone Arrangers: Surviving a Scanning Project" at the California Association of Museums' annual conference in Santa Barbara, Calif., in February. She discussed the Mount's efforts to digitize yearbooks, newspapers, literary journals and other publications. She also presented "To Boldly Go: Digitization, Preservation and Social Media for the Fearless Lone Arranger" at the Society of California Archivists' annual conference in Berkeley in April.



Karina Macias '10, left, attends the College's Ready to Run™ program on Feb. 9 with her campaign manager, Marilyn Sanabria.

Alum from Class of 2010 elected to city council

In 2010, Karina Macias graduated from Mount St. Mary's with a double-major in political science and psychology. Less than three years later, the 25-year-old took her seat on Huntington Park's (Calif.) city council, having won the most votes in that city's 2013 election.

Macias won 1,228 of a total 2,450 votes cast (just over 50 percent) in a four-person race for two city council seats. In the process, she outdistanced two incumbents who had most recently served as mayor and vice mayor of Huntington Park.

The Mount alum managed to walk the streets of Huntington Park at least four days a week during the campaign — all while continuing her work as an assistant justice coordinator at the CSJ Corondelet Center, and pursuing her master's degree in international studies at Chapman University.

"[The CSJs'] charism helps me to keep things in perspective," Macias says. "I don't look at political opponents as my enemy, for example. We just look at things differently. We can't have an 'us versus them' mentality. We have to work together to make our community stronger. That's what I want to do now."

Macias has returned to campus often, guest-speaking in several classes and volunteering at the College's Learning Resource Center. And this past February, in the midst of her campaign, Macias returned to her alma mater to attend Ready to Run™, the College's nonpartisan, campaign-training program designed to train and encourage women to run for public office.

Women's Leadership Conference set for Sept. 7 with Kathy Magliato and Bonnie St. John as keynote speakers

Heart surgeon Dr. Kathy Magliato and Paralympic medalist Bonnie St. John will serve as bookend speakers at this year's Women's Leadership Conference at the Mount's Chalon Campus on Saturday, Sept. 7. The annual conference is part of the College's continuing efforts to encourage dialogue and facilitate positive changes to the challenging issues facing California's women and girls.

Dr. Magliato is one of the few female cardiothoracic surgeons in the world and is currently the director of women's cardiac services at Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica, Calif. St. John became the first African-American to win Olympic ski racing medals, taking home two medals at the 1984 Paralympics in Austria. Today, she is a business consultant, public speaker and author of six books, including her most recent, "How Great Women Lead."

The daylong conference will feature speakers and sessions designed to provide a variety of leadership lessons. For more information about the speakers and the program, go to www.msmc.la.edu/wlc.



Dr. Kathy Magliato



Bonnie St. John

MSMC president speaks on gender parity at Milken Institute's prestigious Global Conference

Mount St. Mary's President Ann McElaney-Johnson spoke at a gathering of influential thinkers at the Milken Institute's annual Global Conference held April 28-May 1. This year's conference brought together world leaders in the fields of finance and philanthropy, including former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, former U.S. Vice President Al Gore, and Microsoft founder Bill Gates.

McElaney-Johnson joined Geena Davis, Academy Award-winning actor and founder of the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, as a speaker in the session addressing the question, "Is Gender Parity Possible in the 21st Century?" Other panelists were Molly Ashby, founder and CEO of Solera Capital; Deborah DeHaas, vice chair of Deloitte LLP; Manju Ganeriwala, state treasurer for the Commonwealth of Virginia, and Willow Bay, senior editor of Huffington Post.

In one of her comments, McElaney-Johnson noted the disparity in the number of women entering the higher-paying and faster-growing STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math. "Parity means effectively educating both women and men in these fields and across all degrees so that they are ready, in equal numbers, to go into these leading positions. This is important for our economy," she says.

To watch a video of the panel, go to www.globalconference.org.

from the faculty

Vanessa Ochoa, director of iComunidad and instructor of sociology, co-authored a chapter, "From the Turf to the Top: Access to Higher Education by Latino Male College Football Players," in the third edition of "Racism in College Athletics," published by Fitness Information Technology in January.

Nancy Pine, professor emerita, co-authored a chapter, "Early Literacy Education in China: A Historical Overview," in "Perspectives on Teaching and Learning Chinese Literacy in China" published by Springer in December 2012. She also presented "What Does Creativity Mean in Chinese Education?" at the Comparative Education Society of Hong Kong's annual conference in February. She also spoke about U.S. preschools at the China Women's University in Beijing, China, in March.

Devery Rodgers, Fritz Burns Endowed Chair of Education and director of instructional leadership, presented her research on K-12 social media policies at the American Association of School Administrators national conference in February, at the online 2013 School Leadership Summit, the Computer-Using Educators conference in Palm Springs in March and at the American Education Research Association meeting in San Francisco in April.

from the faculty

Amanda Romero, assistant professor of sociology, received the Best Paper Award from the International Organization of Social Sciences and Behavioral Research for "Latina College Students & Self-Blame," which she presented at the organization's Spring 2013 Conference in Atlantic City, N.J., in April.

Marie Seitz, assistant director of the traditional bachelor of science in nursing program, attended the Summer Genetics Institute at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., in June.

Eric Stemp, co-chair of the physical sciences and mathematics department, and **Sylvine Deprele**, assistant professor of physical sciences and mathematics, attended the American Chemical Society's national meeting with a group of Mount chemistry students in New Orleans in April.

Wanda Teays, chair of the philosophy department, presented on teaching ethics and film at the Association of Practical and Professional Ethics' annual meeting in San Antonio in February. In March, she organized and chaired a panel for the Association of Informal Logic and Critical Thinking at the American Philosophical Association meeting in San Francisco. **Peter Tan**, lecturer in the philosophy department, was one of the speakers.



Reverend Monsignor
Clement J. Connolly



Monica Spillane
Luechtefeld '71



Maria Gutierrez
Ott '70, '78 MA



Linda Sax

College welcomes back former trustees, new member to board

Mount St. Mary's Board of Trustees welcomes four familiar faces to become the newest members of the College's governing board for the 2013-2014 year.

Reverend Monsignor Clement J. Connolly, MSMC alumna Monica Spillane Luechtefeld '71, and alumna Maria Gutierrez Ott '70, '78 MA have previously served as Mount trustees. And new trustee Linda J. Sax has contributed to recent releases of the College's annual Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California™.

Msgr. Connolly first joined the board in 2003. He served as pastor of Holy Family Church in South Pasadena, Calif., from 1984 until he retired in 2010. He has assisted the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in a number of other ways, including as the chair of the editorial council of *The Tidings*, the Archdiocesan newspaper.

Luechtefeld is a Mount alum, a former member of the College's Regents Council and a Mount Associate since 1985. She first joined the College's Board of Trustees in 2002. Luechtefeld rose to become the executive vice president of e-commerce for Office Depot, responsible for driving more than \$4.1 billion in global Internet sales.

Ott earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Mount St. Mary's before completing her doctoral studies at the University of Southern California. She previously served as superintendent of the Rowland Unified School District and deputy superintendent of learning for the Los Angeles Unified School District. Today, she is the executive-in-residence at USC's Rossier School of Education.

Sax is a professor in the Graduate School of Education & Information Studies at UCLA and division head for the Higher Education & Organizational Change program. She studies issues related to women in STEM fields, and the experiences of students and faculty at women's colleges through grants from the National Science Foundation and the Women's College Coalition. Sax, author of more than 70 publications, served as a panelist for the release of the Mount's 2012 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California™.

During Mount St. Mary's Commencement ceremony this May, the College and its Board of Trustees also recognized longtime member Michael A. Enright for more than two decades of support to the College, naming him a Trustee Emeritus. Enright first joined the board in 1991, and served as chair of the board.

'Tamale Road' returns to El Salvador

Four years in the making, the documentary "Tamale Road" returned to El Salvador this summer with a national premiere at the Walking Cinema Film Festival. The film is the creation of Marcos McPeck-Villatoro, MSMC's director of journalism and new media and Fletcher Jones Endowed Chair in Writing.

The story follows McPeck-Villatoro, his wife and his children as they travel to El Salvador with their homemade tamales to make new friends among old family. Along the way, they discover many secrets about the Villatoro family's past, and about the identity of the filmmaker's home country.

The Mount will host a special screening of "Tamale Road" this fall. Stay tuned to msmc.la.edu for details. For more info on the documentary, visit facebook.com/TamaleRoad.



Graduate Humanities launches 'Distinguished Voices in Writing' series with Emmy winner Dan O'Shannon

Four-time Emmy Award winner Dan O'Shannon ("Modern Family") and Writers Guild of America Award winner Glen Mazzara ("The Shield," "The Walking Dead") will be the featured speakers for a new monthly writers series sponsored by the Humanities Program. Humanities faculty member Katherine Boutry who wrote for the shows "Missing" and "The Haunting Hour," will host the series starting Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. with O'Shannon. The program continues on Oct. 17 with Mazzara.

O'Shannon has worked on shows such as "Newhart," "Cheers," and "Frasier." He currently is an executive producer of the ABC show "Modern Family."

The writers series will take place at the Doheny Campus of Mount St. Mary's College. RSVPs are required. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$5 WGA members, and free for MSMC students, faculty and staff. Contact the Humanities Program for more information at 213.477.2927.

from the faculty

Diane Vines, director of the traditional bachelor of science nursing program, presented "Coping with Traumatic Stress Experiences" at the Building Healthy Academic Communities National Summit in Columbus, Ohio, in April. She also presented "Presenting Violence and Exploitation of Prostituted and Trafficked Women and their Children" at the Association of Community Health Nurse Educators' annual meeting in June in Raleigh, N.C.

Shelly Tochluk, chair of the education department, joined the editorial board of "Understanding and Dismantling Privilege," the official journal of the White Privilege Conference, a program of the Matrix Center for the Advancement of Social Equity and Inclusion at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. She also facilitated a discussion with the board of trustees of Concord Academy in Concord, Mass., following their reading of her book, "Witnessing Whiteness," as part of their professional development program in February.

@ For more faculty accomplishments, go to www.msmc.la.edu/academics/provost

College receives scholarship grant for nursing program

For the sixth straight year, Mount St. Mary's College has received support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's New Careers in Nursing (NCIN) Scholarship Program. This year, the Mount will receive a \$60,000 grant to support students in the College's Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program.

In awarding the grant to Mount St. Mary's, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation noted its commitment to fund scholarships "in accelerated bachelor's and master's degree programs, for students from groups underrepresented in nursing or from a disadvantaged background."

Over the past five years, 51 of the Mount's ABSN students have been supported by more than \$500,000 in NCIN funding. To learn more about the College's most recent Robert Wood Johnson Foundation scholars, visit www.msmc.la.edu and go to the Undergraduate Bachelor Program / Nursing section of the College's website.

In addition to directly funding student scholarships, support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has also enabled Mount St. Mary's to create a new mentoring program for some of its ABSN scholars.

Cross-cultural connections grow in China with faculty and president's trips to Nanjing and Beijing universities

The Mount has further strengthened its international bonds with China this year, finalizing agreements with a pair of Chinese universities that will increase faculty and student exchanges between the schools.

The commitment made between Mount St. Mary's and Gannan Normal University is a first step in developing a strong, long-term relationship that will ultimately support faculty and student exchanges, as well as joint research and curriculum development.

President Ann McElaney-Johnson's meetings at Nanjing University focused on growing an already fruitful partnership that began more than a decade ago. This spring, the Mount hosted Professor Wenshu Zhao, chair of Nanjing's English department and a visiting Fulbright Scholar. In return, a group of MSMC students and a team of faculty members from Mount St. Mary's each visited Nanjing University.

The faculty trip was organized as part of the College's two-year, \$100,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Mount St. Mary's is using the grant to integrate international cultures — particularly Chinese culture — into a cross-section of undergraduate and graduate coursework. The project began this past school year with a six-part series of guest lectures featuring top scholars in Chinese history, philosophy, poetry, art, literature and cinema.



A faculty cohort visits China's Nanjing University in March as part of a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. From left: David Leese, Paul Green, Patty Melnick, Montserrat Reguant and Alan Lee (not pictured: Julie Feldman-Abe, Jane Crawford and Michele Fine).



Mount once again earns spot on President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

Mount St. Mary's reputation for service-learning and community engagement has received the highest federal recognition possible: a spot on the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction.

The Corporation for National and Community Service annually compiles its Honor Roll and Honor Roll with Distinction. This year, only 113 higher-education institutions earned recognition on the Honor Roll with Distinction, and Mount St. Mary's was one of only a dozen colleges in California to achieve the status.

College's new 'RN to BSN' Program designed for working nurses who need an advanced bachelor's degree

Developed over the past two years, Mount St. Mary's new RN to BSN program is specifically designed to meet the needs of working nurses. The program enables registered nurses to obtain an advanced bachelor of science in nursing in just three semesters.

"This non-traditional completion program is a direct response to the trend of healthcare companies looking more for BSN nurses," says Jim Kennett, assistant director of the Mount's associate nursing program and one of the faculty members who helped develop the RN to BSN program.

Two tracks are offered to accommodate nurses who work Monday-Friday business hours, as well as nurses working 12-hour shifts. Application periods in the spring and fall provide additional flexibility, with classes offered on Fridays, weekday evenings and/or weekends through the Mount's Weekend College.

For more information, visit www.msmc.la.edu/admission/nursing-transfer-students/rn-to-bsn.



Chefs and MSMC help to end hunger

This spring, Mount St. Mary's became the first college to participate in Chefs to End Hunger, a program that donates excess food from restaurants and hotels to local agencies serving meals to those in need. The Mount now saves food leftover from its cafeterias and campus events, and delivers eight large boxes worth of food each week to The Midnight Mission in downtown Los Angeles.

The food donations are another extension of Mount St. Mary's college-wide emphasis on fostering a spirit of service. Donated meals assist The Midnight Mission's work, which helps individuals on Skid Row transition into self-sufficient citizens. In addition to its other services, The Midnight Mission provides 90,000 meals a month.

New majors offered

The philosophy department is offering a new Ethics & Society major for undergraduates. As a major, double major, or minor, Ethics & Society will deepen students' knowledge of ethical theory, and the role of values in professions and in society in general.

Weekend College has also started offering an Applied Psychology major, with an emphasis on applying psychological knowledge to real-world problems.

The associate in arts program also added a new emphasis in Healthcare Policy for students pursuing a major in liberal arts.

A woman with dark hair, wearing a black sleeveless dress with a gold belt buckle, stands in front of the White House. She is smiling and has her hand on her hip. The White House is visible in the background, along with green trees and a lawn.

Adding SEATS at the TABLE

Alejandra Ceja '96 often meets inside the White House as part of her new role with the Department of Education.

MSMC alum Alejandra Ceja '96 begins a new mission as director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics

By Phillip Jordan

Sink or swim.

It wasn't a question as much as it was an ultimatum that Alejandra Ceja '96 gave herself. She had earned a position in Washington, D.C., working in the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) less than three years after graduating from Mount St. Mary's. But with great opportunity came great pressure.

"I was scared," Ceja says. "That was my first big job and my confidence wasn't as high. It was intimidating being surrounded by all these Ivy Leaguers, people who were cultured and traveled, all these things that I wasn't."

Sink or swim.

"I just kept swimming," she says. "I realized it doesn't matter where you come from or who you are. You just have to get to the point where you *believe* that you deserve a seat at the table."

Today, Ceja's goal is to pull more seats up to that proverbial table. This spring, she was appointed director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.

Ceja and her team are tasked with improving Hispanics' educational opportunities and achieving results. Hispanics make up the largest and fastest-growing minority group in the country, yet have the lowest education attainment levels of any U.S. group.

"Earlier in my career, I intentionally chose broader community issues to work on," she says. "I didn't want to be the Latina expert in the room simply because I was Latina. I didn't want people to fit me into this one neat little box."

"But now I'm older, I have well-rounded experience and I'm ready for this challenge. So if people want to put me in that box, go ahead. I'm ready for it now."

NEW WORLDS

Ceja's parents immigrated from Michoacán, Mexico, to Huntington Park, Calif., in the 1970s. Her father was a butcher. Her mother raised five children. A single motivation impelled their move to the United States: access to quality education.

For Ceja, her bachelor's degree in political science from the Mount was a springboard to internships in Washington, D.C., and jobs within the White House, U.S. Congress and Department of Education. During Ceja's freshman year at the Mount, she took a leadership class led by the late Cheryl Mabey-Ruebensaal '69, founder of the College's Women's Leadership program. "I felt for the first time there was somebody truly seeking to get the best out of me," Ceja says. "She really honed in on my potential, and wouldn't let me off the hook."

Ceja became a Student Ambassador, president of Latinas Unidas and an AmeriCorps participant, working on community beautification projects, teaching English and mentoring high school students. Years later, as a senior budget and appropriations advisor for the House Committee on Education and Labor, she would help draft legislation in support of the 2009 Serve America Act — which substantially increased AmeriCorps' funding.

Before her senior year, Ceja was accepted to a Women in Public Policy summer seminar with the Public Leadership Education Network (PLEN) in D.C. The only thing preventing her participation was the seminar's expense. Mabey-Ruebensaal told Ceja that she'd found a way to get the fees waived. "I found out later," Ceja says, "that the 'waiver' was really her paying the cost for me to go. All these opportunities I've had since are a testament to Dr. Mabey and her leadership program."

The PLEN experience opened a new world. "I'd never really even left L.A. before," Ceja says. "It was exciting to be around so many powerful women and to be exposed to D.C. and the possibilities there. As soon as I got home, I told my family I'd be going back!"



Photo: Watchara Phomicinda

Alejandra Ceja '96 visits the Chalon Campus a week after her appointment as director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.

And she did, completing fellowships, working at the OMB, advising in Congress and eventually becoming chief of staff to U.S. Under Secretary of Education Martha Kanter before ascending to her current position.

A NEW GOAL

Ceja's White House Initiative is based inside the Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Building. The back of the structure faces the National Mall's museums, monuments and tourists. Off to the east, the Capitol Dome rises above the city's stunted skyline. To the northwest, just out of view, sits the White House, where Ceja often meets with her counterparts.

Her square, modest office is brightened with artwork by her California-based nieces and nephews. Above Ceja's desk hangs a framed copy of the Serve America Act. It is signed by Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), who inscribed: "Thanks for all your great work to get this passed into law."

She has spent much of her summer planning a "Latinos in Action" quarterly town hall series. Ceja envisions the town halls as "national conversations on education issues critical to Latinos." Her team can then take those issues to the philanthropic community, seeking partnerships with foundations, businesses and nonprofits that can help to

bridge those persistent educational gaps for Latinos.

"It's kind of like you're running a nonprofit at the federal government," she says. "You're this important-sounding White House Initiative but you've got somewhat limited resources. You have to wear a lot of different hats. I love it because it forces you to be creative and maximize the assets you do have."

Fifteen years after arriving in D.C., Ceja still encounters moments that make her pinch herself, just to confirm it's all real. One of those moments came recently when Ceja attended a dinner reception at the United States Supreme Court. There, she shared a table with Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

"Getting the chance to speak with her reinforced why I'm doing this," Ceja says. "It was so amazing to meet this woman who is representing the Latino community in such a positive way. She embodies the idea that, yes, you *can* be a Supreme Court justice and be a Latina woman from the Bronx!

"Meeting her made me think of my nieces back home and how I want them to see and hear stories like hers. I'll never take those moments of inspiration for granted."

Moments born, she knows, from having a seat at the table. ♣

BUILDING A LEGACY: THE CSJ HERITAGE

BY DEBBIE REAM

From the moment of their founding in 17th century France, the Sisters of St. Joseph have dedicated themselves to all that women are capable of being, and in service to the “dear neighbor.” Along the way they experienced persecution in revolutionary France, traveled to the New World in 1836 and made a perilous journey across the frontier to the West in 1870, founding hospitals and colleges across the country. More than 360 years later, Mount St. Mary’s College continues the mission and the charism of its founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJ).

HISTORY

The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph began in 1650 with six women in a small kitchen in Le Puy, France, with the spiritual direction of a Jesuit priest, Jean-Pierre Medaille. Rather than being a cloistered order — typical of the time — the sisters were to form a new kind of religious community in which women would live simply in small groups, supporting themselves. In Le Puy, this often involved the making of lace — in the 1700s, the sisters taught young women this time-honored craft to lift them out of dire poverty and to provide them with the means for a dignified life.

The order grew until 1789, when religious communities were disbanded during the French Revolution. Some of the sisters became martyrs, sent to the guillotine, and others were imprisoned. After the revolution, Mother St. John Fontbonne reestablished the order in 1807 in Lyon, France. Word of their good works spread, and in the early 1800s, Bishop Joseph Rosati, the first Bishop of St. Louis, sent a letter to Mother Fontbonne asking for sisters who would teach deaf children in Missouri. In 1836, the first six sisters set sail for America. They eventually settled in the town of Carondelet, about five miles south of St. Louis.

Continuing this educational tradition, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Los Angeles Province, has sponsored institutions across the Western states, some of which include Mount St. Mary’s College; Carondelet High School in Concord, Calif.; Academy of Our Lady of Peace in San Diego; St. Mary’s Academy in Inglewood, Calif.; and numerous hospitals and medical centers in California, Arizona, Washington and Idaho.

Photo: Courtesy of Mount Archives

CSJ MILESTONES

- 1650** Sisters of St. Joseph founded by Fr. Jean-Pierre Medaille, SJ, in Le Puy, France.
- 1800** Sisters regroup after the French Revolution and re-founded under the guidance of Mother St. John Fontbonne.
- 1836** French-speaking sisters establish a community at Carondelet, Mo.
- 1870** Sisters travel to Arizona and found community in Tucson.
- 1876** Tucson becomes the mother house of the Western Province. Ministry is expanded among Native Americans.
- 1889** St. Mary's Academy is founded in Los Angeles.
- 1900** Western Province is reestablished in Los Angeles.
- 1920** Sisters of St. Joseph of Idaho join the Carondelet congregation and become part of the Western Province.
- 1925** Mount St. Mary's College is founded.
- 1938** Sisters establish a community in Hawaii and minister during the war years.
- 1955** Carondelet Center is built, adjacent to the Mount's Chalon Campus, as the CSJ's House of Studies.
- 1956** Sisters establish a community in Kyoto, Japan.
- 1962** Doheny Campus opens. Community founded in Peru.
- 1970** Responding to the Second Vatican Council, CSJs expand beyond education and hospitals to embrace ministries in social justice.
- 1987** Community founded in Chile.



The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet have been teaching Mount students to become women leaders who serve without distinction since the founding of Mount St. Mary's College in 1925. Top, students with Mount faculty in the 1920s. Above, CSJ Sisters serving in the faculty in the 1940s.

THE CHARISM OF THE FOUNDERS

According to Juliette Marsh Williams, the facilitator of the CSJ Heritage Institutes held at Mount St. Mary's in 2012 and 2013, charism comes from the Greek word for "gift," as given by the Holy Spirit. These gifts can be either personal or communal — for example, religious life is considered a charism. It is what animates and focuses the work of the sisters.

The gifts of unity and reconciliation are at the center of the sisters' mission. By witnessing to unity with their own lives, they help others experience it and create systems to foster it. By actively striving against violence and polarization in all forms, the sisters work to reconcile individuals, families, communities and even whole societies with one another, within themselves, and with God.

Many of the institutions sponsored and founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in Los Angeles, including St. Joseph Center (assisting the working poor and homeless) and Alexandria House (transitional housing for women and children), were begun because sisters discerned the needs of the community and then implemented programs to meet those needs.

THE FOUNDERS AND MOUNT ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

In 1925, the sisters founded Mount St. Mary's College to establish an institution of higher learning where women could become leaders dedicated to service, justice and knowledge, with a spirit of serving all without distinction.

Yet even as the number of sisters actively involved in the College as teachers, administrators and volunteers has decreased over the last several years, the College remains committed to living those ideals.

The charism of the sisters is manifest throughout the College every day. Some of the diverse ways it is expressed include: the Visiting our Homeless Neighbors ministry, where Chalon Campus students travel to Santa Monica after Sunday Mass to feed the homeless and connect with them; the Student Ambassador Program, where Mount students serve as mentors and advisors to students from their communities; the Mount's unparalleled nursing program, where students are trained in more than just practice, but are also concerned with the dignity of the person being treated; and the Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California™, which the College uses to highlight the needs of California's females, exemplifying the spirit of discernment of the sisters.

The foundation of the College's new 2013-2018 Strategic Plan are the Five Pillars of Distinction, which has as its heart the spirit of the founders. "We continue to live in the tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet," said President Ann McElaney-Johnson. "Each one of us at Mount St. Mary's College is committed to our students and our communities, both locally and globally. I can't think of a better way to honor these women of faith and justice who have dedicated their lives to their charism." ♣

LE PUY FOUNDERS AWARD

The most distinguished honor incoming students can receive from the College is the Le Puy Founders Award, which honors the legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Two incoming first-year students have been awarded the full tuition scholarships: Eileen Sabalburo of Sierra Vista High School, who will major in nursing, and Viviana Sanchez of Saint Genevieve High School, who will major in biology.

The two were chosen after a series of interviews with the scholarship committee.

Feeding the soul

By Shelley Boniwell '06

When I think back on my experience with the Visiting our Homeless Neighbors ministry at Mount St. Mary's, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and my friend Phil come to mind. The trips, formerly called Feeding the Hungry, were the highlight of my week.

As the coordinator of Campus Ministry's social justice and community service at the Chalon Campus, it was my job to facilitate Feeding the Hungry every Sunday night during the school year. Volunteers would gather before Mass to assemble the meal bags, which included a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, juice or water, a piece of fruit and a snack item. After Mass, we carpooled down to the Santa Monica Promenade to meet our friends living on the streets and provide nourishment for those who were hungry.

Phil was one of the homeless men I encountered at the Promenade. I looked forward to seeing him each Sunday; we had many conversations about education, politics and social justice. Phil sat on the same bench every week, eagerly awaiting our arrival. He greeted us with a huge smile and hearty, "Hello ladies, how are we tonight?" I spent the majority of my time conversing with Phil while some of the other volunteers walked the Promenade, handing out food and chatting with a diverse group of special people.

One specific memory with Phil touched my heart and still brings a smile to my face. It was the weekend before Valentine's Day, and as I approached the bench where Phil was sitting, before I could hand him a meal, he said, "I have something for you today!" I was taken aback because I never expected anything from Phil but delightful conversation. He handed me a piece of ripped paper which he had turned into a Valentine's Day card. On the front of the card, he had drawn Cupid holding a bow and arrow and colored it with crayons. On the inside, he wrote a message that brought me to tears: "Today is my day to thank you for the love and joy you bring to my life." This simple message transformed my outlook on life, from the way I interact with people to my choice of career. It has become my motto: to bring love and joy to people's lives through selfless acts every day.

After graduating from the Mount, I moved away from Los Angeles and did not have the chance to tell Phil how he has impacted my life. I kept the card he gave me and every time I look at it, I am flooded with the memories of our many encounters and thank God for bringing Phil into my life. ♣

Shelley Boniwell '06 is a school counselor in Vista, Calif. She graduated from the Mount with a double major in liberal arts and religious studies and a minor in sociology. She received her master's degree in counseling from the University of San Diego.

SISTERS AMONG US

**Sister Mary
McKay '67**
director of
graduate religious
studies department

**Sister Margaret
O'Rourke**
Doheny Campus
resident

**Sister Carol Brong
'66, '95 MA**
administrative
assistant
to the AA dean

**Sister Darlene
Kawulok**
chair of
religious studies
department

*"Those of us
who are here
are glad
to be here,
to keep the
spirit alive."*

Sister Carol Brong, CSJ

@ THEIR STORIES

One way to sustain the legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet is to tell their stories. We interviewed some of the sisters on campus and asked them to share their personal journeys. Visit www.msmc.la.edu/magazine to watch the videos.

Photo: Glenn Marzano



The 17 Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in this photo (and on the next page) are all connected to the Mount. Three sisters are faculty, and two more have been conferred professor emerita status. Five are on the board of trustees. Two sisters serve in the administrative staff, and the remaining five live on the Chalon and Doheny campuses.

Back in the 1970s, there were at least 80 CSJ sisters serving on both campuses. Today there is a diminishing physical presence of sisters at the College, a reality mirroring the decreasing number of women religious nationwide.

"It would be great if we had 20 sisters or more working at the College, but it isn't to be right now," says Sister Carol Brong, assistant to the dean in the associate in arts program. "Those of us who are here are glad to be here, to keep the spirit alive."

**Sister
Barbara Anne
Stowasser '60**
trustee

**Sister Louise
Bernstein '51**
Alumnae Board
member

**Sister Jan
Husung**
Doheny Campus
resident

**Sister Imelda
D'Agostino '58**
professor emerita

**Sister Catherine
Marie Kreta '61**
trustee



ALL THAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF BEING

Encouraging women to be the very best they can be is in the DNA of the Sisters of St. Joseph, so it's not surprising that the women of the CSJ community support each other's pursuit of academic excellence. The CSJ sisters who work at the College and serve on the board of trustees are an unassuming group, but their academic pedigree is impressive. One holds a juris doctorate and served as a lawyer for years. Almost all of them have master's degrees — some even have two — and the three sisters who serve as faculty all earned doctorates.

Sister Annette Debs '61 worked toward a law degree so she could help families in poverty who needed legal aid. "My particular practice was helping the poor, regular, down-to-earth people, and (helping remove obstacles) that hamper them from being able to reach the American dream," says Debs, one of five CSJ sisters on the Mount's board of trustees and a former

**Sister Mary
Sevilla '63**

Chalon Campus resident

**Sister Joan
Henehan '63**

trustee and associate director,
spiritual life program

**Sister Constance
Fitzgerald**

Doheny Campus resident

**Sister Kieran
Vaughan '64, '74 MS**

professor,
liberal studies

**Sister Teresita
Espinosa, '59**

professor emerita



administrative law judge for the state of California.

For Sister Darlene Kawulok, chair of the religious studies department, her doctorate in ministry allowed her to teach higher education, where she could infuse a sense of inclusivity and social justice to her classes. She takes to heart the CSJ tradition of empowering women. "From the very beginning, the Sisters of St. Joseph have lived with the notion that women are capable of all their God-given gifts. Nothing should get in the way of the development of these gifts for the life of the world," she says.

Kawulok says her best self is a woman of justice, someone who speaks on behalf of the marginalized and the poor, and who empowers young women to do the same. "The Sisters of St. Joseph have made me who I am. I am a better woman because of them," she says. ♣



**Sister Annette
Debs '61**
trustee

**Sister Thomas Bernard
MacConnell**
volunteer,
spiritual life program

**Sister Marilyn
Binder '65**
former trustee,
Chalon Campus
resident

"From the very beginning, the Sisters of St. Joseph have lived with the notion that women are capable of all their God-given gifts."

Sister Darlene Kawulok, CSJ

Not in photo:

Sister Mary Patricia Rosholt '64,
trustee

Sister Daniel Therese Flynn '60,
volunteer, Learning Resource Center

Sister Ann Patricia O'Connor,
volunteer, education department

Sister Elizabeth Ann Malone '54,
professor emerita and volunteer,
Learning Resource Center

Retirement is next phase for Eleanor Siebert

By Phillip Jordan

This summer, Eleanor D. Siebert retired from her role as Mount St. Mary's provost and academic vice president, concluding a 39-year full-time career as a member of the College's faculty and administration.

A career that began, she says, mostly by accident.

Siebert grew up in the hardscrabble mining community of Coalwood, W.Va., working her way to Duke University with dreams of being a doctor. Her first semester there, a fellow student from West Virginia was involved in a car wreck.

"I went to see him at the hospital several times," Siebert recalls. "And every time I went, I would pass out. Just get deathly ill and pass out! I figured that would not be a helpful trait to carry to medical school."

So Siebert became a chemistry major.

That decision propelled her to an apprenticeship in Switzerland, to UCLA for graduate work and, ultimately, to Mount St. Mary's as a chemistry professor.

She would eventually become chair of the Mount's physical sciences and mathematics department. Along the way, Siebert published a chemistry textbook and publications on effective teaching methods. And she dove fully into research, most notably a decade-long undergraduate research project that helped improve the understanding of cholesterol-based diseases. In 2001, the national Society for College Science Teachers named Siebert its Outstanding Undergraduate Science Teacher of the year.

"College is such a tremendous growth period in students' lives and it's so rewarding to watch that," Siebert says. "In every interaction you have with students you can



Photo: Glenn Marzano

THE SIEBERT SCHOLARSHIP was established in honor of the former provost of Mount St. Mary's College. To give to this scholarship, please contact Institutional Advancement at 213.477.2764.

make a difference."

In 2004, she became provost. "As provost, you're now representing the College and the administration, not just yourself," she says. "And that was difficult for me to get used to. I'd been faculty for 30-plus years and still am at heart."

Still, she became known for her calm demeanor and her focus on students' needs. David Leese, a business administration professor, has known Siebert for 38 years. "She's a caring but demanding leader," Leese says. "She could look you in the eye and refuse you everything you ask. But then she'd help you build something even better than you ever intended."

"We thank her for sharing her life and her wisdom with generations of students, and with the faculty and staff who have had the honor of working with her."

College faculty and staff had the chance to thank Siebert for her career at an April 5 dinner party in the Doheny Mansion.

"Dr. Eleanor Siebert embodies the concept of remarkable service," says President Ann McElaney-Johnson. "We thank her for sharing her life and her wisdom with generations of students, and with the faculty and staff who have had the honor of working with her. She has been a true gift to this community."

Siebert won't be a stranger at Mount St. Mary's just because she's retired as provost, as she plans to help with different projects and reports. But her retirement will give her more time to spend traveling, hiking, camping, gardening and sailing with her husband Ray. "I actually do a lot of physical labor, which may surprise people," she says, "but I find it therapeutic because it frees the mind to think."

The camaraderie is what Siebert says she'll miss most. "There is a true community here," she says. "Having grown up in a small town, that's always been important to me.

"It doesn't mean that you agree with each other all the time. There are tough decisions that have to be made and there are bumps in the road. But in the end, we're a group of people who have a shared passion, and who have learning at the core of what we do." ♣

College welcomes new provost

Wendy J. McCredie, the Mount's new provost and vice president for academic affairs, says what initially drew her to Mount St. Mary's was the College's ongoing commitment to its founding mission.

"Those leadership and service components that derive from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet are so important," she says. "The giving back, the sense that your education is not just to benefit *you*, but is to benefit your family, your community and, ultimately, the world."

A native of New Zealand, McCredie has lived in Australia, France and many parts of the United States, picking up four languages along the way. She earned her bachelor's degree in literature from Yale University, as well as a master's in French and a doctorate in comparative literature from the University of Texas in Austin.

McCredie most recently served as acting provost and associate dean for academic affairs at Mount Mary, another women's college in Milwaukee, Wis. Previously, at Texas Lutheran University, she served as faculty, French program director, English chair and director of the school's Center for Women's Studies.

"Women's education has always been important to me," she says. "So this is a great joy for me to come here now, and be part of the growth Mount St. Mary's is so well poised to make."

An avid reader, gardener and cook, McCredie is married to Leonard Schulze, who is retiring this year as a professor at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wis. The couple has two children: Andrew, 24, and Miriam, 18, who began her own new college experience this fall as a first-year student at Knox College in Galesburg, Ill. ♣



MSMC alum gives time, treasure and talent to College



James Roach '06, '09 MA has formed a bond with MSMC that will last a lifetime. In addition to his degrees, he cheered on his two daughters as they graduated from the College in 2002 and 2007. He teaches in the Weekend College, and serves as an executive in residence in the Mount's MBA program.

It's the kind of deep connection, consistency and loyalty that tied him to his management job at American Honda Motor Co. for 35 years. He retired from the company this summer as senior vice president in charge of parts, service and technical operations, handling international exports for the giant carmaker.

Roach has given generously in support of the Weekend College, and has contributed to the Paul Craft Memorial Scholarship (Roach and Paul Craft '03, '09 MS were friends before Craft passed away in 2010) and the Merrill Rodin Weekend College Scholarship Fund.

The executive became a student at the Mount to stretch himself outside of the business realm, and to learn more about the world cultures he was immersed in every day. "I was impressed with the school, even during my first few visits to have dinner with my oldest daughter," he says. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and a master's degree in humanities.

"There's a mentoring, helpful environment that supports people who are trying to further themselves and learn more about life," says Roach. "It's a very comfortable, safe place, even though it has high academic standards."

Roach envisions the Mount playing a continued significant role in his life. In retirement, he looks forward to expanding his teaching role and traveling.

— Joanna Banks

Ahmanson Foundation support benefits scholarships, campus improvements

The Ahmanson Foundation has supported Mount St. Mary's College over four decades, providing much-needed funding for student scholarships and campus improvements. The foundation is again enriching the College, this time with its latest gift toward the renovation of the Chalon Campus Center, part of the overall Chalon Grand Entrance project.

The foundation also chose MSMC as one of the institutions this year to receive the Ahmanson Veteran Scholarship Initiative grant, which supports military veterans now returning to school. The grant will enable the College to assist these students with their transition from military service to the academic environment.

The foundation's ongoing support has enhanced the way students learn and has improved student life. In addition to providing much-needed student scholarships, in recent years the foundation helped make significant classroom renovations possible in Ahmanson Weingart Hall, and brought about dining improvements in the Doheny Campus Ahmanson Commons.

"Because we have such a long relationship with the school, we've been able to see the results of our funding," says foundation President William H. Ahmanson. "We've seen an impressive number of graduates finding employment and success." He tracks the foundation's support of the College to at least 1977, and possibly earlier.

"The College has a very unique atmosphere to it," says Karen Ahmanson Hoffman, the foundation's managing director. "We appreciate that Mount St. Mary's has assisted so many low-income students and women throughout its history."

— Joanna Banks



Doheny Campus library entrance project gets funding from Leavey Foundation

The Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation provided a \$750,000 grant to support the renovation of the J. Thomas McCarthy Library Entrance and Student Quad on the Doheny Campus. The project will create a new library entrance facing Ahmanson Weingart Hall, which is the Doheny Campus' main classroom building. It will also transform the adjacent outdoor area into an active Student Quad, with additional seating areas and an expanded stage for outdoor events. The new entrance and quad will position the library as a true hub on campus.

UniHealth Foundation grant supports nursing faculty research on future of healthcare industry

UniHealth Foundation awarded \$91,650 in support of a research-planning grant for six of the College's nursing faculty members. They will be conducting field research among key leaders from the healthcare industry to evaluate the current changes in healthcare, the future role of nurses, and how the Mount can better prepare the next generation of nurses.

Invest in an IRA charitable rollover

Have you been thinking about making a gift to the Mount, but would like to do so in the most tax-efficient way possible? If you are over 70, there may be a way to accomplish both goals.

Individuals who have reached age 70½ may donate up to \$100,000 to the Mount directly from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), without treating the distribution as taxable income. In order to qualify, contributions must go directly to MSMC and be made from traditional IRAs or Roth IRAs. Otherwise, the mandatory distribution from your IRA would trigger a tax burden, even if you later donated the money to charity. The IRA rollover provision removes these negative tax consequences and allows you to give back and be tax smart.

Please contact Cindy Hizami, director of planned giving, at 213.477.2740 or chizami@msmc.la.edu for more information.

class notes

'46

Marilyn (Menne) Hansen has three children, 12 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

'52

Rita (Blecksmith) Ryan and her husband, **Jack Ryan '90 MA**, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in November 2012 with their family in Morro Bay. Jack is also celebrating 38 years as a deacon for the archdiocese of Los Angeles.

'55

➔ **Maryl Mattson** published her book, "Shaman's Dream: The Modoc War" in July 2012.

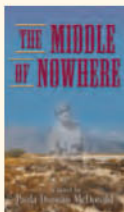


'56

Sally (Heenan) Bernard spent one week in February 2013 in Santa Cruz, Honduras, on a mission trip. She has one grandchild in Cheboksary, Russia, on a Fulbright Scholarship and another grandchild teaching Irish in Rennes, France. She is still teaching religious education to second-graders.

'58

➔ **Paula (Duncan) McDonald's** first novel, "The Middle of Nowhere," was an Eric Hoffer Award finalist, recognizing it as among the top 10 percent of all books entered in the competition.



'60

Marilyn (Brassor) Nagel and her husband, Dale, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August 2012 at a dinner in Scottsdale, Ariz., with their son Brian and his wife.

'61

Phyllis (Lieb) Ambrose and her husband celebrated 50 years of marriage on June 30 with family and friends. They went to Ireland in September 2012 with their daughter

for the Notre Dame-Navy football game. She still works part time at her local Los Angeles County library and enjoys visiting family and grandchildren in California and Virginia.

'62

Elizabeth (McCready) Stark continues to volunteer as a tutor with the Camp Verde Adult Reading Program in Camp Verde, Arizona. She and her husband celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August 2013.

'63

Lois Risinger received an MSN in 1986 from CSULA. She retired from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health after 35 years. She now teaches at Santa Monica College where she has been a part-time clinical instructor since 2002. She also works part time for the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration.

'64

Kathleen (Earl) Principe and her husband, Joe, celebrated their 50th

wedding anniversary in June 2013. They have two daughters and five grandchildren.

'68

➔ **Maryann Russo** just published her first book of poetry, "Wild and Still," through



Over and Above Press. In the acknowledgments she credits Sister Laurentia, her mentor and inspiration at Mount St. Mary's.

'69

Susana Hernandez Araico read a paper titled "Musica y Mitologia en Calderon y Sor Juana" for the Asociacion Internacional de Teatro Espanol y Novohispano de los Siglos de Oro's special conference in Brazil in October 2012. Following the conference, she traveled Brazil for a month and spent two additional weeks in Argentina.



Class of 2013 gives scholarship as senior gift

The Class of 2013 presented their senior gift to Jane Lingua, vice president of student affairs, during the Senior Farewell Dinner on April 26 in the Doheny Mansion. The money they raised will go toward a scholarship and will be matched by Alum Board members.

Wai-Soo (Wong) Koo's daughter graduated in June from the Potomac School in McLean, Va. She will be attending Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, in the fall to study biomedical engineering.

'70

Cecelia (Duffy) Essin retired in May 2013 after 36 years in pediatrics, most recently serving as assistant medical director of Los Angeles County Children's Services. She and her husband, Don, are looking forward to son Andrew moving back to Pasadena where he has accepted a post-doctorate fellowship in theoretical physics at Caltech.

Terry King has written a biography, "Gregor Piatigorsky: The Life and Career of the Virtuoso Cellist" published by McFarland & Co. He continues to teach at both The Hartt School at the University of Hartford and the Longy School of Music of Bard College. He also is co-director of Lyricafest, a summer workshop in chamber music in Lincoln, Mass.

Sister Judy Molosky, CSJ, welcomed the inaugural group of St. Joseph Workers to Los Angeles in August 2013. These five female college grads from across the U.S. will complete a one-year, faith-based service program. The program is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

'73

Karen Cabral is presently working as a reading specialist at St. Patrick's School in San Jose, Calif. She is a writer of children's stories and an avid artist, teaching art camps for children. She recently had a mini-reunion with fellow graduate **Mary Pat Parter**.

'76

Ann (Gleason) Grover reports that their home was destroyed in the Oklahoma City tornado on May 30. Prayers will be offered for her in this difficult situation.

'80

Nancy (Duncan) Blake will be inducted into the American Academy of Nursing in October.

'81

Elly Walters-Bible obtained the national Faith Community Nursing certification and is working with Catholic Charities to ensure that Hispanic community outreach programs are available for those who are eligible. She is a graduate of the BSN program and currently practices advanced community nursing in Santa Barbara County.

Gina (Pascolini) Marcaccio, a Doheny graduate of 1981, received her BSN in August 2012 from California State University, Dominguez Hills and is currently enrolled in the family nurse practitioner program.

'85



← **Maggie (Correnti) Grinnell** has written a book, "Isabella and Penelope," which was

recently published. Her website is www.maggiegrinnell.com

'89

Keith Soko, was recently promoted to full professor in the theology department at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. He is a graduate of the master's program in religious studies at the Mount.

'91

Tanya (Galouskin) Doman graduated with her Doctor of Physical Therapy at the University of Tennessee on Dec. 15. She took a veterinary rehabilitation focus to her doctoral studies and also passed her CCRP (Certified Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner) at the University of Tennessee the week prior to graduation. In 2012, she earned her Authority to Treat Animals status from the state of Colorado.

'92

Sharon (Kirk) Gorman went on a weeklong medical mission trip to the mountainous region of western Panama with a group from Samuel



Merritt University, representing family nurse practitioners, physician assistants, physical therapists, and pre-health profession students. The group of 17 people provided care to over 540 patients during three days of clinics.

'94

John Thomas was promoted to chief/ executive director of the University of Southern California Department of Public Safety on Jan. 7. After serving 21 years with the Los Angeles Police Department, he retired at the rank of lieutenant in 2005.

'95

Marie Anne Legaspi is a family nurse practitioner and a professor in the Associate Degree in Nursing and the ADN to BSN programs at the Mount. She recently taught "Public Health Clinical" at the UCLA School of Nursing and was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society in Nursing. She lives in Hollywood, Calif.

'96



← **Cynthia Moreno-Estrada** is working at the Drucker School of Management at Claremont Graduate University as the assistant director of

admissions and marketing. She is also pursuing an MBA with a concentration in strategy and marketing. This was a busy summer as her son Gabriel turned 4, her husband, Israel, turns 40, and they celebrated their ninth wedding anniversary.

'98

Tori Canillas-Dufau, also from the classes of 2001 and 2004, recently celebrated 20 years of teaching nursing at Mount St. Mary's College.

alum community

Norfina Joves is an educational specialist in K-12 services for the College Board and a family trainer for CFY, formerly Computers for Youth. After earning her master's degree in teaching at USC, she served as a panelist during Trojan Pride Day to inspire master's graduates entering the field of teaching.

'00

Kay (Kavanaugh) Murdy, who earned a master's degree in religious studies, has written six books on scripture and prayer, and has now written her first novel, "Song of the Dove: A Story of Mary of Nazareth." The book is now being edited by ACTA Publications, which plans to publish the book in 2014.

'03

Vaughn J. Bernardez is married to Rina and they had their first child in November 2012. He co-founded the Los Angeles International Charter High School and is currently the director of international programming and athletics. Several alumni from the school attend the Mount.

Stephanie (Sampson) Nocita

celebrated eight years with Wells Fargo Bank and was recently promoted to vice president. She manages a team of business development officers and relationship managers.

'04

Vanessa Mansilla is a family nurse practitioner and has celebrated one year of owning a private practice medical clinic in Bell Gardens, Calif.

Camille Ramos-Beal received her doctorate in education from USC and celebrated her fifth wedding anniversary this summer. She was also promoted to assistant principal at Palomares Academy of Health Sciences.

'05

Farrah Rivera has completed her first year of midwifery school and will spend the summer as a student



midwife at the Natural Birth Center & Women's Wellness in Whittier, Calif. She has also had a busy year with the group Justice for My Sister, a campaign against domestic

violence. She helped organize the first annual Take Back the Night event in the Boyle Heights community.

'06

Marisa Smith is working on her doctorate in film studies at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK. She is also the social media manager and archivist for actor John Hurt.

'07

Mayra-Alejandra Garcia received her master's from the Mount in 2012. During her last semester as a graduate student, she studied abroad in London, taking an independent study course on Shakespeare. After completing the master's program, she took a job as executive assistant for John Paul DeJoria, owner of Paul Mitchell Hair Care and Patron Tequila.

Jennifer Gail (Batugo) Gargano was recently diagnosed with angiosarcoma of the breast in March 2013. She and her husband, Brian, were featured on Yahoo! Shine and CBS for being able to plan a wedding in less than 10 days, thanks to the kindness of strangers, friends and family. She asks that the Sisters of St. Joseph and the MSMC community continue to keep her in their thoughts and prayers.

'08



↑ **Anna Dermenchyan** completed a yearlong Evidence-Based Practice

Fellowship in nursing at UCLA. Her project was to standardize the process of post-operative handover from OR to cardiothoracic ICU. Her fellowship graduation was in June 2013.

'09

Teresa Nunez will be attending The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in pursuit of a doctorate in business psychology. She is currently working for a consulting firm as a consultant in the healthcare field.

'10

Katie McKay is in her first year of graduate studies in social work at California State University, Los Angeles with an aging and family concentration. She was placed at the Kaiser Permanente Educational Outreach Program in Alhambra, Calif., and is providing individual therapy to adolescents in a school setting.

Alfonso Pizano Jr. is a classroom teacher at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Monterey Park, Calif., and has finished a master's in elementary education from Loyola Marymount University. He has been approved to enter the Jesuit Novitiate in Culver City where he will begin priestly formation. He is proud to be a graduate from MSMC.

Jasmine Turner-Bond passed the California Bar Exam in February. She completed a fellowship with the United Nations at The Hague on December 2013.

'11

Jeffrey Bergen was recently accepted to the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing at Loyola University Chicago.

Jessica Palacios earned a certificate in human resources from Loyola Marymount University and now works as a staff development trainer and recruiter for one of the largest after-school program agencies in Los Angeles.

marriages

- '01 Annie Lin to Jon Carr
'03 Carey Beth Gardner to Stephen Zuniga



- '07 ↑ Jennifer Batugo to Brian Gargano

births & adoptions

The Alumnae Association extends congratulations to the following alums and their spouses on their new additions:

- '99 Ryan Darlow to Erin (Hennigan) Darlow, 3rd child



- '99 ↑ Dominic De La Torre to Brooke Pierman, 1st child
'02 Hal Kenneth Anderson to Vanessa (Bell) Anderson, 1st child



- '02 ↑ Jacob David Bonilla to Valerie (Gonzales) Bonilla, 1st child
'03 Kaiyro Bernardez to Vaughn J. Bernardez, 1st child

- '04 Jason Michael Meyers Jr. to Sarah (Moe) Meyers, 1st child



- '07 ↑ Allison Frausto to Nancy (Zamora) Frausto, 1st child

in memoriam

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of:

- '35 Patricia (O'Connor) Hickey
'41 M. Beatrice (Ginevra) Langston
'50 Mary Ellen Likins
'53 Sister Consuelo Aguilar, CSJ
'53 Eileen (Kline) Ivers
'53 husband of Margaret (McInnis) Verge
'53 husband of Mary (Weidinger) Young
'56 Sister Patricia Arnold, CSJ
'57 Alice (Osti) Carriere
'57 husband of Jonelle (Gagel) Haraksin
'57 Micheale (Kemp) Wagnon
'57 daughter of Jennie Bejnar
'58 husband of Marie (Healy) Mushaney
'60 Barbara (Bernard) McBride
'61 husband of Lucia (Weaver) Rygh
'64 mother of Madeline (Drnek) Hamilton
'65 husband of Jane (Zola) Delahanty
'65 Brenda Tucker
'67 Linda (Robson) Murrow
'67 Holly (Franking) Slegman
'70 mother of Maria (Gutierrez) Ott
'76 mother of Angela (Taylor) Griffin
'76 Kathryn (Dragon) Henn
'79 father of Alicia Andujo
'82 father of Lisa (Edmonston) Kimble
'90 father of Carol Desmond-Donohue
'91 brother of Maria Avila
'98 husband of Jane (Harris) Nadeau
'99 sister of Amephea Johnson
'01 father of Christina Chao
'03 mother of Elise Levine
'03 mother of Anelise Sablan

advanced degrees

The Alumnae Association congratulates the following alums for their successful pursuit of intellectual achievement:

- '84 Ruth (Brown) Sanborn, MA in Bioethics and Healthcare Policy, Loyola University Chicago, May 2013.
'91 Debra (Holdbrook) Stillwell, BS in nursing, University of Great Falls, December 2012
'91 Tanya (Galouskin) Doman, DPT, University of Tennessee, December 2012.
'94 Nancy (Bielecki) Lassa, family nurse practitioner/MSN, Concordia University, May 2013
'97 Bradley Paterson, MA in English, Notre Dame de Namur University, 2011
'01 Tammy Gilbert-Bohnet, DPT, Northeastern University College of Professional Studies, September 2012
'02 Alejandra Tellez, MPPA, California Lutheran University, May 2013
'04 ◆ Blanca Gil, EdD, USC, May 2013
'04 ◆ Camille Ramos-Beal, EdD, USC, May 2013
'05 Agasia Lanier, M.Ed., Abilene Christian University, December 2012.
'08 Marisol Sanchez, MSW, UCLA, June 2013
'10 Teresa (Johnston) Cartmill, BSN, University of Texas at Arlington, May 2013
'11 Vernice Grajeda, MA in Spanish, The Catholic University of America, May 2013
'12 Howard Morales, MA in social research methodology, UCLA, June 2013



JOIN US

Homecoming 2013

Save the date for Homecoming 2013! It will be held Nov. 9 and will start with Mass at 10 a.m. Highlights will include the return of the popular photo booth, a champagne brunch, student performances, raffle and a cake celebrating Founders Day. Fun and informative workshops, including a comedy improv class, will also be held during the day. For more information, contact alums@msmc.la.edu or 213.477.2767.

Year of Magical Thinking

Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Joan Didion's play, "The Year of Magical Thinking," will make its Los Angeles debut at Mount St. Mary's College, Doheny Campus. The Weekend College program will present the one-woman show, starring Janis Stevens, on Sept. 20-22 and Sept. 27-29. For more information, call 213.477.2866.

Learn about Los Angeles

Join alums and friends on a private docent-led tour of Becoming Los Angeles, a 14,000-square-foot exhibit at the Natural History Museum, on Oct. 12 at 10 a.m. Discover how the Los Angeles we know today came to be, while catching up with classmates and meeting new friends. Cost, which includes admission and private tour, is \$10.25 for adults, \$7.50 for seniors, college students and teens (13-17); and \$4.25 for children (3-12). You must make reservations by Oct. 1. To reserve, visit www.msmc.la.edu/becomingLA. For more information, contact Jeanne Ruiz '63 at 213.477.2512 or at jaruiz@msmc.la.edu.



Pack your bags ... it's tulip time!

The Alumnae Association is looking forward to next spring's annual alum trip – a cruise down the waterways of Holland and Belgium from April 4 to 12, 2014. This trip is special because it will be tulip season in Holland.

Highlights from this trip will include breathtaking sights of the Keukenhof Gardens in Amsterdam; excursions to the historic cities of The Hague, home of the World Court, and Delft; exploration of the modern Gemeentemuseum to admire the works of two Dutch Golden Age artists, Vermeer and Rembrandt; sightseeing in Bruges with its picturesque canals and winding cobblestone lanes; tours of Antwerp, one of Europe's leading art centers; the home of painter, Peter Paul Reubens, and a major diamond export center; and shopping at the colorful shops of the Markt and Burg Central Square. The cruise program begins at \$2,745 per person. For more information, contact Jeanne Ruiz '63 at 213.477.2512 or at jaruiz@msmc.la.edu. You may also visit www.msmcalums.la.edu/alumtour2014 for more details.

upcoming events

- Sept. 7 Women's Leadership Conference
- Sept. 10 Annual alum trip to China
- Sept. 19 Distinguished Voices in Writing series
- Oct. 12 Becoming Los Angeles exhibit alum tour, National History Museum
- Oct. 17 Distinguished Voices in Writing series
- Nov. 5 Doheny Mansion Tour
- Nov. 9 Homecoming

save the date

- Feb. 8 Ready to Run
- Feb. 13 Religious Education Congress alum reception
- March 27 Report on the Status of Women and Girls™
- March 29 President's Invitation to Serve

This calendar represents only some of the events at Mount St. Mary's College. For more up-to-date listings, visit www.msmc.la.edu. For alum events, visit www.msmcalums.edu.



The first Commencement in the Bowl, June 5, 1936. Guests and graduates sat on folding chairs.



Sister Agnes Bernard Cavanaugh, CSJ, looks out over a group of students seated on a temporary stage in the partially completed Bowl. Picture is dated 1937.



A hand-tinted postcard from the 1940s shows the Bowl in the lower left-hand corner.



More than 600 people attended the dedication of the Bowl on July 31, 1938, after permanent seating and stage had been built. Father William Joseph Finn, CSP, of the renowned New York Paulist Choristers, conducts.

Former Mount Bowl, from dump to treasure

Music buffs in Los Angeles often make a trip to the Hollywood Bowl during the summer season. Back in the 1930s, there was another popular outdoor music venue on the itinerary: the Mount Bowl.

With spectacular ocean views and nestled in a grove of trees on the southern edge of the Chalon Campus, the Bowl was also a venue for graduation and academic convocation for more than 25 years. A prominent Greek-style amphitheater appears in the original master plan for the College drawn up in 1926 by architect Mark Daniels. But the origins of the Mount Bowl turn out to be much more humble.

When Chalon was first excavated in the late 1920s, tons of rock and dirt were simply bulldozed into the surrounding canyons. The debris slope became unstable in winter rains and, worse, it turned into a convenient rubbish dump after the College occupied the new campus in 1930. By 1935 it was a serious eyesore. Mother Margaret Mary Brady, the Mount's founding president, came up with a simple design for a small amphitheater on the site of the landfill. Over the next two years, Mount groundskeepers tamped down and terraced the slope, and added a stage and bench seating for a few hundred people.

The Class of '36 inaugurated the Bowl on June 5, 1936, establishing a Commencement tradition that continued until 1954, when the event moved to the Circle. The formal dedication of the Bowl took place on July 31, 1938, with a program of sacred choral music performed by Mount students accompanied by a male chorus and professional orchestra. Among the audience were two well-known Catholic movie stars, Irene Dunne and Maureen O'Sullivan.

The Bowl continued to be used for other all-college gatherings until the early 1960s. Brushfires had threatened the space more than once, and in the Bel Air Fire of November 6, 1961, it finally succumbed to the flames. It was never rebuilt, and eventually the site disappeared beneath the José Drudis-Biada Art Gallery and Fine Arts Building (1974) and parking structure (1984). ♣

— Victoria McCargar, College Archivist



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